stages capable of reconfiguration to operate in accordance with different data encoding standards; and

wherein the tokens provide reconfiguration information to the standard-dependent processing stages.

2. The multi-standard decoder of claim 1, wherein each of the tokens includes an extension indicator that indicates whether additional words are present.

3. The multi-standard decoder of claim 1, wherein one of the standard-dependent processing stages comprises an inverse quantizer.

4. The multi-standard decoder of claim 3, wherein one of the tokens comprises a first QUANT_TABLE token.

5. The multi-standard decoder of claim 4, wherein the inverse quantizer recognizes the first QUANT_TABLE token and, responsive to a first state of the extension indicator in a first word of the first QUANT_TABLE token, generates a second QUANT_TABLE token to be conveyed to another of the processing stages.

6. The multi-standard decoder of claim 5, wherein the second QUANT_TABLE token includes quantization table values.

7. The multi-standard decoder of claim 4, wherein responsive to a second state of the extension indicator of the first word of the QUANT_TABLE token, the inverse quantizer installs a quantization table of the first QUANT_TABLE token in a memory.

8. A method of decoding a data stream of data encoded by different standards comprising:

receiving tokens at a standard-dependent processor, the standard-dependent processor capable of reconfiguration to operate in accordance with the different standards; and

reconfiguring for standard-dependent processing in response to the received tokens.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein each token includes an extension indicator that indicates whether additional words are present and has a first and a second state to indicate reconfiguration information.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein one of the conveyed tokens is a first QUANT_TABLE token, and further comprising:

recognizing the first QUANT_TABLE token; and

responsive to the first state of the extension indicator in a first word of the first QUANT_TABLE token, generating a second QUANT_TABLE token to be conveyed to another processor.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the second QUANT_TABLE token includes quantization table values to be used by the another processor.

12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

responsive to a second state of the extension indicator of the first word of the QUANT_TABLE token, installing a quantization table of the first QUANT_TABLE token in memory.

13. A system comprising: